

an IA at a lower rate than the conference rate when there is less than 30 days remaining on the original IA, the adopted IA should be made to expire 30 days after its effectiveness to comply with the statutory 30-day notice requirement. In the case of an independent action time/volume rate (“IA TVR”), the dates of the adopting IA may vary from the dates of the original IA, so long as the duration of the adopting IA is the same as that of the originating IA. Furthermore, no term other than “adopt” (e.g., “follow,” “match”) can be used to describe the action of assuming as one’s own an initiating carrier’s IA. Additionally, if a party to an agreement chooses to take on an IA of another party, but alters it, such action is considered a new IA and must be published pursuant to the IA publication and notice provisions of the applicable agreement.

(2) An IA TVR published by a member of a ratemaking agreement may be adopted by another member of the agreement, provided that the adopting member takes on the original IA TVR in its entirety without change to any aspect of the original rate offering (except beginning and ending dates in the time period) (*i.e.*, a separate TVR with a separate volume of cargo but for the same duration). Any subsequent IA TVR offering that results in a change in any aspect of the original IA TVR, other than the name of the offering carrier or the beginning date of the adopting IA TVR, is a new independent action and shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the applicable agreement. The adoption procedures discussed above do not authorize the participation by an adopting carrier in the cargo volume of the originating carrier’s IA TVR. Member lines may publish and participate in joint IA TVRs, if permitted to do so under the terms of their agreement; however, no carrier may participate in an IA TVR already published by another carrier.

(g) A conference agreement shall not require or permit individual member lines to be assessed on a per carrier usage basis the costs and/or administrative expenses incurred by the agreement in processing independent action filings.

(h) A conference agreement may not permit the conference to unilaterally designate an expiration date for an independent action taken by a member line. The right to determine the duration of an IA remains with the member line, and a member line must be given the opportunity to designate whatever duration it chooses for its IA, regardless if the duration is for a specified period or open ended. Only in instances where a member line gives its consent to the conference, or where a member line freely elects not to provide for the duration of its IA after having been given the opportunity, can the conference designate an expiration date for the member line’s IA.

(i) Any new conference agreement or any modification to an existing conference agreement that does not comply with the requirements of this section shall be rejected pursuant to § 535.601 of this part.

(j) If ratemaking is by sections within a conference, then any notice to the conference required by § 535.801 may be made to the particular ratemaking section.

[69 FR 64414, Nov. 4, 2004, as amended at 74 FR 50729, Oct. 1, 2009]

**§ 535.802 Service contracts.**

(a) Ocean common carrier agreements may not prohibit or restrict a member or members of the agreement from engaging in negotiations for service contracts with one or more shippers.

(b) Ocean common carrier agreements may not require a member or members of the agreement to disclose a negotiation on a service contract, or the terms and conditions of a service contract, other than those terms or conditions required by section 8(c)(3) of the Act (46 U.S.C. 40502(d)).

(c) Ocean common carrier agreements may not adopt mandatory rules or requirements affecting the right of an agreement member or agreement members to negotiate or enter into service contracts.

(d) An agreement may provide authority to adopt voluntary guidelines relating to the terms and procedures of an agreement member’s or agreement members’ service contracts if the guidelines explicitly state the right of

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the members of the agreement not to follow these guidelines.

(e) Voluntary guidelines shall be submitted to the Director, Bureau of Trade Analysis, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573-0001. Voluntary guidelines shall be kept confidential in accordance with § 535.608 of this part. Use of voluntary guidelines prior to their submission is prohibited.

[69 FR 64414, Nov. 4, 2004, as amended at 74 FR 50729, Oct. 1, 2009]

### § 535.803 Ocean freight forwarder compensation.

No conference or group of two or more ocean common carriers may:

(a) Deny to any member of such conference or group the right, upon notice of not more than 5 calendar days, to take independent action on any level of compensation paid to an ocean freight forwarder; or

(b) Agree to limit the payment of compensation to an ocean freight forwarder to less than 1.25 percent of the aggregate of all rates and charges applicable under the tariff assessed against the cargo on which the forwarding services are provided.

## Subpart I—Penalties

### § 535.901 Failure to file.

Any person operating under an agreement, involving activities subject to the Act pursuant to sections 4 and 5(a) of the Act (46 U.S.C. 40301(a)–(c) and 40302) and this part and not exempted pursuant to section 16 of the Act (46 U.S.C. 40103) or excluded from filing by the Act, that has not been filed and that has not become effective pursuant to the Act and this part is in violation of the Act and this part and is subject to the civil penalties set forth in section 13(a) of the Act (46 U.S.C. 41107).

[69 FR 64414, Nov. 4, 2004, as amended at 74 FR 50729, Oct. 1, 2009]

### § 535.902 Falsification of reports.

Knowing falsification of any report required by the Act or this part, including knowing falsification of any item in any applicable agreement information and/or reporting requirements pursuant to subparts E and G of

this part, is a violation of the rules of this part and is subject to the civil penalties set forth in section 13(a) of the Act (46 U.S.C. 41107) and may be subject to the criminal penalties provided for in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

[69 FR 64414, Nov. 4, 2004, as amended at 74 FR 50730, Oct. 1, 2009]

## Subpart J—Paperwork Reduction

### § 535.991 OMB control numbers assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

This section displays the control number assigned to information collection requirements of the Commission in this part by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. The Commission intends that this section comply with the requirements of section 3507(a)(3) of the Paperwork Reduction Act, which requires that agencies display a current control number assigned by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each agency information collection requirement in the following table:

Section	Current OMB control No.
535.101 through 535.902 .....	3072-0045

## APPENDIX A TO PART 535—INFORMATION FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS

### INFORMATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

1. All agreements and modifications to agreements between or among ocean common carriers identified in 46 CFR 535.502 must be accompanied by a completed Information Form to the full extent required in sections I through V of this Form. Sections I and V must be completed by all such agreements. In addition, sections II, III and IV must be completed, as applicable, in accordance with the authority contained in each agreement. Where an agreement containing multiple authorities is subject to duplicate reporting requirements in the various sections of this Form, the parties may provide only one response so long as the reporting requirements within each section are fully addressed. The Information Form specifies the data and information which must be reported for each section and the format in which it must be provided. If a party to an agreement is unable to supply a complete response to any item of this Form, that party